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Letter dated 15 July 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 9 July 1998 (A/52/981-S/1998/631), I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 10 July 1998.

On that day, a small civilian aircraft accompanied by six military F-16 aircraft of the Turkish Air Force entered the Nicosia flight information region and violated the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus. The civilian aircraft landed at the illegal airport of Tymbou, while the six military aircraft flew back on a northerly route towards Turkey.

As stated in my previous letters, such intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules. At the same time, they are in contravention of the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, which state that such overflights increase political tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to protest strongly against these new provocative acts by Turkey, a Member State of the United Nations, against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus. These acts are in complete disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sotirios ZACKHEOS
Ambassador, Permanent Representative

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